

**Subject:** Keeping the Promise  
**From:** Paul Krekorian  
**Date:** 04/28/2017 04:49 PM  
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**Reply-to:** councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org

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City leaders joined Councilmember Krekorian to honor *The Promise*, the first Hollywood film to portray the Armenian Genocide. | Photo: CD2

Dear Friend:

This month, Angelenos and people across the world commemorated the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, one of the most horrific events of the 20th Century. The Genocide was a defining moment for Armenians, but because the Armenian people have survived and thrived in the years since, the cause of justice and recognition has been taken up by millions of people of all nationalities who care deeply about human rights.

For the first time, the history of Armenians and the atrocities committed against them has been brought to the silver screen thanks to the release of the new motion picture *The Promise*. Today, I proudly led a special City Council presentation commemorating the Armenian Genocide and honoring the filmmakers behind this incredible film.

*The Promise*, the first big-budget Hollywood film to discuss the Armenian Genocide, is a historical drama directed by Terry George and starring Oscar Isaac, Charlotte Le Bon and Christian Bale, set in the final years of the Ottoman Empire. Mayor Eric Garcetti and Controller Ron Galperin joined me to honor the film's producers, Mike Medavoy and Eric Esrailian, along with Serj Tankian, musician, activist and the film's executive music consultant, who also contributed a modern rendition of the Armenian folk song, "Sari Siroun Yar," to the soundtrack.

The film has brought the story and strife of the Armenian people to a much wider audience. It has also shown why recognizing the genocide is still a critically important issue today. I hope you will support the film and encourage you to see it this weekend on the big screen.

#### **Discover Shushi 2017**

This Sunday, I invite you to join me at an event to learn more about Armenians living abroad in

the city of Shushi, located in the Republic of Artsakh. In 2012, the City Council formally established Shushi as a Friendship City with Los Angeles.

**Discover Shushi 2017**  
**Sunday, April 30, 5 pm to 9 pm**  
**Phoenicia Restaurant**  
**343 N. Central Ave.**  
**Glendale, CA 91203**

The event is a terrific opportunity to experience and celebrate Shushi's rich culture and commemorate the 25th anniversary of Artsakh's freedom. To learn more about Discover Shushi 2017 and for tickets, visit [www.itsmyseat.com/events/705997.html](http://www.itsmyseat.com/events/705997.html).

Very truly yours,

*Paul Krekorian*

Councilmember Paul Krekorian, District 2

Los Angeles Shushi Friendship Association Presents  
**Discover Shushi 2017**

As we commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Liberation of Shushi, we invite the community to discover the rich traditions of the people of Shushi in the Republic of Artsakh.

- \* Sample delicious traditional "Shushi bread" (soft-shelled bread) and the unique wines and breads of the region
- \* View a large collection of Shushi carpets and learn about the hidden meanings of their ancient motifs
- \* Learn about tourism and ecotourism opportunities
- \* Meet the remarkable volunteers who have helped to rebuild the town and lives of the Artsakh region
- \* mingle with friends and enjoy light appetizers

**Special Guests:**  
**Robert Avetisyan**  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Artsakh to the United States  
**Paul Krekorian**  
Los Angeles City Councilman

**Renowned presenters will include:**  
Extreme athletes, **Telma Altoon**  
Armenian Hikers Association, **Robert Assarian**  
President of the Armenian Rugs Society, **Hratch Kozibekovian**  
Travel expert, **Ara Boyadjian** and Author, **Mathew Karanian**

Sunday, April 30, 2017 5-9pm  
Phoenicia Restaurant  
343 N Central Ave., Glendale, CA 91203 Tel: (818) 955-7800

For tickets please visit: [itsmyseat.com](http://itsmyseat.com)  
Donation: \$20 adult / \$10 student / Children - Free admission  
Sponsorship Opportunities are available at \$100-\$250-\$500-\$1000

Visit us on Facebook @ Los Angeles Shushi Friendship Association  
For additional information, please contact: [laangelsushifriendship@gmail.com](mailto:laangelsushifriendship@gmail.com)

## TOP STORY

### Budget Committee Kicks Off Hearings on \$9.2 Billion Spending Plan



LOS ANGELES - This week, LA Budget Chair Paul Krekorian kicked off public hearings to analyze, review and finalize the city's proposed \$9.2 billion budget. In the first week of hearings, committee members met with the Police and Fire Departments, the Department of Recreation and Parks, in addition to the Bureaus of Engineering, Street Services and Sanitation, among others, to discuss the city's commitment to delivering services and resources for the community.

As the public hearings continue next week, the committee will talk with additional departments, get public input on the budget and make amendments to Mayor Garcetti's proposal. This is Krekorian's sixth year leading LA's budget process.

All meetings will be streamed live and on-demand at [lacity.org](http://lacity.org). You can also call in to listen at (213) 621-CITY (2489) or (818) 904-9450.

## Unity and Progress: 25 Years After LA's Civil Unrest



The LA City family held hands around City Hall in a show of unity. | Photo: CD2

LOS ANGELES - Twenty-five years ago this week, civil unrest engulfed much of Los Angeles. Set off by a mostly white jury acquitting four LAPD officers in the beating of a black motorist, Rodney King, but rooted in long simmering economic, racial and social tensions, the six days of unrest claimed 63 lives, injured more than 2,000 and damaged many small businesses and properties. Out of the ashes, people in South Los Angeles and across the city came together to discuss and address the many problems laid bare by the unrest.

A formal commission was formed to investigate the LAPD's response to the civil unrest. Chaired by former FBI and CIA chief William Webster, the panel probed LAPD policies, training materials and tactical plans to understand how the department allowed the rioting to spiral out of control. Councilmember Krekorian, then a private attorney, served as counsel to the Webster Commission. After extensive interviews and a broad review of policing policies in other cities, the Webster Commission concluded that the LAPD had been insufficiently prepared for civil disturbances and called for better coordination between police officials and civic leaders.

While Los Angeles hasn't fully solved the lingering issues of racism and inequality, things have come a long way over the past quarter century. There has been systemic change throughout the city, from police department reforms to a new and more diverse city leadership that is moving Los Angeles forward.

On Friday, the City Council openly discussed the need to promote unity and understanding among LA's communities. City staff also joined together in a grand act of unity, "Hands Across City Hall." Organized by Council President Wesson with the participation of hundreds of city employees, including Councilmember Krekorian and his staff, people gathered outside of City Hall and joined hands in a symbolic act of unity and cross-cultural understanding. The goal was to reclaim one of the most destructive and divisive dates in our city's history and mend the wounds with peace, unity and understanding.

## CITY SPOTLIGHT

### Raising Awareness Against Sexual Assault

LOS ANGELES - On Wednesday, the City Council proclaimed Denim Day in Los Angeles to raise awareness about sexual assault prevention and support victims of sexual violence.

Denim Day, organized locally by the nonprofit group Peace Over Violence, has



been held since 1999 during Sexual Assault Awareness Month each April. Denim Day takes its name from an Italian court case in 1990 that sparked international outrage when judges ruled that an alleged rapist could not have committed sexual assault because the victim's jeans were "too tight." By wearing jeans, it is a show of collective protest against sexual assault, rape, violence, and erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault.

For more information about Denim Day, visit [www.denimdayinfo.org](http://www.denimdayinfo.org).



Team Krekorian participated in Denim Day.  
| Photo: CD2

## COMMUNITY CORNER

### Keeping the Community Clean



**NORTH HOLLYWOOD** - The Clean Streets LA team hit the streets of North Hollywood to remove illegally dumped bulky items, shopping carts, trash and debris from a neighborhood median. The ongoing clean up effort is a part of Councilmember Krekorian's neighborhood beautification push happening across District 2.

This Saturday, you can join the Bureau of Sanitation to learn more about recycling and proper disposal practices to keep our communities clean. The annual Discover Recycling Open

House is a free family friendly event with food, educational activities and prizes for kids. For more information visit [www.lacitysan.org](http://www.lacitysan.org).

**Discover Recycling Open House**  
**Saturday, April 29, 9 am to 2:30 pm**  
**East Valley District Yard**  
**11050 Pendleton St.**  
**Sun Valley, CA 91352**

As always, if you see trash or debris in your neighborhood, call 3-1-1 or submit a service request online at [www.lacity.org/MyLA311](http://www.lacity.org/MyLA311).

## PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



Councilmember Krekorian, in coordination with the Department of Recreation and Parks, recently unveiled the official plaque of North Hollywood Park's pomegranate grove to commemorate the Armenian Genocide Centennial. | Photo: CD2



This year, Comcast Cares Day brought dozens of volunteers to brighten up North Hollywood High School with new murals. | Photo: Comcast

## EVENTS

**Discover Recycling Open House**  
**Saturday, April 29, 9 am to 2:30 pm**  
**East Valley District Yard**  
**11050 Pendleton St.**  
**Sun Valley, CA 91352**





and uncover the overwhelming trauma refugees face. To RSVP, email [UNAUSA@gmail.com](mailto:UNAUSA@gmail.com).



### **Spring 2017 People St Applications Now through May 30**

LADOT is pleased to announce that the Department has launched the People St application window. While People St plaza applications are due no later than May 30, the department will be accepting applications for bike corrals and parklets on a rolling basis. Send in your best ideas for bringing the community together through public space projects. For additional information, visit [peoplest.lacity.org/get-ready](http://peoplest.lacity.org/get-ready).

[Click here to view all the upcoming events on our Community Calendar.](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)



Councilmember Paul Krekorian, 200 N. Spring St., Room 435, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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